

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, line 1, please delete the phrase “[Name of Document] Specification.”

On page 2, line 9, please replace the section title “[Prior Art]” with the section title --[Background]--.

On page 3, line 19, please replace the section title “[Means of Solving the Problems]” with the section title --Summary of the Invention--.

On page 5, line 25, please replace the section title “[Embodiments of the Invention]” with the section title --Description of Preferred Embodiments--.

On page 11, line 27, please delete the section title “[Effects of the Invention].”

Please delete the entire section starting on page 12, line 32 with the section title “[Brief Description of the Drawings]” and ending on page 13, line 24 with the phrase “ferrule shown in FIG. 8.”

Please delete the entire section starting on page 13, line 25 with the section title “[Explanation of Reference Numerals]” and ending on page 14, line 11 with the phrase “fiber fixed hole.”

On page 5, after the paragraph starting on line 23, and ending on line 24 with the phrase “the ferrule are prevented,” and before the section now titled “Summary of the Invention”, please insert the following section:

--Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a ferrule according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2(a) shows a plan view of the ferrule of FIG. 1.

Figure 2(b) shows a longitudinal view of the ferrule of FIG. 1.

Figure 3 shows a view taken along the direction of arrows “A” in FIG. 1.

Figure 4 shows a longitudinal sectional view of the ferrule of FIG. 1, having an optical fiber inserted therein.

Figure 5 shows a view corresponding to that of FIG. 3, for a modified ferrule of FIG. 1.

Figure 6(a) shows a plan view of a ferrule according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6(b) show a longitudinal section view of the ferrule of FIG. 6(a).

Figure 7 shows a sectional plan view of a modified ferrule of FIG. 6(a).

Figure 8 shows a perspective view of a conventional ferrule.

Figure 9 shows a longitudinal sectional view of the ferrule of FIG. 8---